

rough illustrations, in the journal of the Bee Research Association: *Bee World* (46, No. 2, 48; 1965). While this compilation does not add to our present knowledge of the honey-bee, it does contain much that is of interest, such as his clearly illustrated account of several types of sectional hives and how to use them, and a description of the "Transparent Hives" in the apiary of the "most ingenious Mr. Mewes". The wasteful methods of the housewife who kills the bees to get the honey are roundly condemned. An interpolation by another hand on "The Method to govern Bees" contains advice on which colonies to keep over the winter and which to destroy. This includes the sound physiological observation that "a poor or small swarm will require more feeding and tendance than a great swarm; the reason is, that a hive full of Bees keep a heat within which is nourishing; for the stomach requires least meat in hot weather". The dancing of the scout bees and the guiding of the colony to their new quarters are well described. A scout brings the tidings and gives notice "by a certain touch which he imparts to the out guards that by a kind of shivering motion communicate it to the whole swarm and centre bees in a moment"—which then disperse and fly immediately to the new home.

### Countryside in Wales

THE twentieth annual report of the Caernarvonshire Branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales covers the year April 1964–March 1965 (Pp. 28. Bangor: H. W. Owen, Honorary Secretary, 202 High Street, 1965). While affirming the Council's belief that rightly sited and designed development is possible with acceptable loss to the landscape, the Council holds that a heavier toll than ever before has been taken during the year in Caernarvonshire, mainly through the 400-kV line across south Caernarvonshire. The Council is unimpressed by the purely economic argument of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and points out that on the Northern route of the 400-kV line the Board could still meet the wishes of the Council and of the County Planning Authority by taking a lower-sited line from Bwlch-y-Deufaen and a shorter crossing of the Conway Valley, with certain existing cables placed underground. The Council shares the concern of the National Parks Commission as to the intrusion of mass recreational facilities and in all that is left of "Wilder Wales" urges that the emphasis should be on low-cost maintenance conservation. It also welcomes the 'Operation Neptune' of the National Trust, and questions the Minister's decision to approve a new chalet town adjoining the sandhills at Morfa Bychan. It asks for priority in designating the Coed Helen Estate and the adjoining coastal area to Llandwrog as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'.

### International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

NOTICE is hereby given of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its plenary powers in connexion with the following cases, full details of which will be found in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (22, Part 2; May 18, 1965): (1) Designation of a type-species for *Limacia* Müller, 1781 (Gastropoda). *Z.N.(S.)* 1665. (2) Designation of a type-species for *Leuctra* Stephens, 1835 (Insecta, Plecoptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1671. (3) Designation of a type-species for *Nupedia* Karl, 1930 (Insecta, Diptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1691. (4) Designation of a type-species for *Heteroptrypa* Nicholson, 1879 (Bryozoa, Trepostomata). *Z.N.(S.)* 1693. (5) Designation of a type-species for *Peronopora* Nicholson, 1881 (Bryozoa, Trepostomata). *Z.N.(S.)* 1693. (6) Designation of a type species for *Baetis* [Leach, 1815] (Insecta, Ephemeroptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1620. (7) Suppression of the specific name *Ephemeria bioculata* Linnaeus, 1758 (Insecta, Ephemeroptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1620. Any zoologist who wishes to comment on any of the foregoing cases should

do so in writing to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, before November 18, 1965.

### Mycobacterial Skin Ulcers

IN the past two and a half years, 28 cases of mycobacterial skin ulcers have been seen and treated at the Medical Research Centre, Bulawayo. Drs. P. J. Barnard and L. Jacobson suggest (*Cent. Afr. J. Med.*, 11, No. 5; 1965) that this entity begins as a phlegmon in the subcutaneous tissues with peripheral spread causing pressure necrosis of overlying skin, thus forming an ulcer. The ulcer is associated with wide undermining of skin edges and induration of the surrounding skin. Diagnosis has been made by history and clinical appearance, by taking a smear from underneath the edges of the ulcer, and staining for acid-fast bacilli, and by biopsy of the ulcer edges, especially the gelatinous material. The only effective treatment has been wide excision of the involved tissue followed later by split-thickness skin grafts. Much remains to be done to determine the epidemiology of this disease. Some workers suggest that *Mycobacterium ulcerans* is a soil saprophyte; others feel that certain fish may act as a reservoir of infection.

### Venereal Infections

THE dramatic decline in the reported incidence of venereal syphilis and gonorrhoea in many countries between the late nineteen-forties and the early nineteen-fifties, following the introduction of penicillin and other antibiotics, was a landmark in the history of public health. Unfortunately, in both these diseases, a persistently rising incidence has been noted in many countries after an all-time low in and around the mid-nineteen-fifties. The reasons for this disturbing trend are analysed in a comprehensive report on the World Health Organization's programme in the endemic treponematoses and venereal diseases, originally submitted to the thirty-fourth session of the WHO Executive Board, in May 1964 (*International Work in Endemic Treponematoses and Venereal Infections, 1948–1963*. Pp. 47. Geneva: WHO; London: H.M.S.O., 1965. 2 Sw. francs; 3s. 6d.). It is stressed that the public health methods available for the control of venereal syphilis are as effective to-day as they were before the recrudescence of the disease became apparent in many countries a few years ago, but that there is an urgent need for a more determined application of present-day knowledge in public health programmes in this field. In gonorrhoea, on the other hand, there is increasing evidence of resistance to one or more of the antibiotics at present in use, though this is a localized rather than a general phenomenon. The chief difficulty is that of bringing cases and contacts to treatment quickly enough to overtake the rapid spread of the infection in the community, and it seems unlikely that the disease can ultimately be controlled except by mass treatment or some form of immunoprophylaxis. In the endemic treponematoses of childhood, striking progress has been made—thanks in large part to the work of the World Health Organization in this field. In most countries where mass campaigns against these diseases have been carried out, the prevalence among rural populations has rapidly regressed to a fraction of 1 per cent. Some 50–60 million people, however, still live in areas of medium or low prevalence where no intensive effort has been made to control these diseases. It is also hoped that it will now be possible to accelerate their elimination in these areas by means of selective, multi-purpose, or integrated campaigns. In the light of this report, the WHO executive board urged member States "to exert a determined effort to maintain adequate and effective measures to reduce incidence of the endemic treponematoses, particularly those of childhood, and the venereal